

lesion of the wall of the gut? If so, where is it and must it be removed surgically? These are some of the problems that arise and it is to be hoped that in subsequent editions some of the space now given to classification will be devoted to "pathologic physiology" and diagnosis.

The interne in a good teaching hospital will often make as clever diagnoses as does his chief of staff because he knows how to work up a case. It would seem that a book which is written to help men, most of whom have not had such training, should do more than enumerate the methods available for diagnosis; it should explain very carefully those actually employed and found useful by the author. We should get a clear idea of the way in which he studies the average case that comes to him.

Considering that, next to the history, the X-ray is often the most important factor in an accurate diagnosis of conditions in the digestive tract, the space allotted to it in the book seems too small. Although it is true, as Dr. Gant says, that it is expensive and should be handled by one who knows something about it, it is true also and should be emphasized, that the man who does not know how to use it is criminally negligent if he fails to send his patient with an operable carcinoma of the colon to the man who can use it and who can easily make the diagnosis for him.

We can hardly agree that "bismuth in one form or another has proved the least dangerous and expensive, the most effective, and is generally employed by expert roentgenologists" (p. 52). Barium sulfate at 75 cents a pound has almost replaced bismuth oxychloride at \$3.75. Carelessness in writing this section is seen also in this sentence (p. 53): "The novice should early learn to analyze the lights and shadows and to closely distinguish clear spots, which indicate accumulations of air or gas, from darker areas, which show that the viscera has been bismuthized at such points." If, as it appears from the context, the author is referring to plates, he too had better learn that the clear spots are due to the bismuth.

Textbook writers must hurry over many sections to get at the ones that interest them, the ones that they can write with authority. We wish they would have certain marks to distinguish statements to which they have given thought and which epitomize the literature on the subject from those which are written hurriedly to make the book complete. For instance, would the author want to defend this statement at the Congress of Physical Chemists (p. 171): "The osmotic pressure is controlled in women by the menstrual loss of blood"? We offer as a suggestion that authors add some such sign as L. U. L. for I looked up literature; D. S. R. for I did some research, and P. S. H. for publisher says hurry. On page 172 we read that in gout we can demonstrate the compensatory action of the intestine by the decrease of urine secreted and the dark stool of nuclein substances. Possibly the author is thinking of nuclei stained properly with hematoxylin. P. 191, If "one of the chief characteristics of enteritis is the rumbling heard and felt by palpation in the intestinal coils of the right iliac fossa" then most of us have it. On page 195 we learn that "cecal gurgling is indicative of catarrh at or about Bauhin's valve."

On page 282 we are surprised to find that Koch's tuberculins, etc., are sera. On p. 464 is a sample of an inconsistency that is shared by so many surgeons today. While he says a large proportion of cases of mucous colitis are due to adhesions about the colon, he "cures" other cases by stitching the colon here and there. Case says constipation is often due to adhesions that prevent the sigmoid from descending properly during defecation and Kellogg operates to loosen them; Gant says the colon often descends too far and he stitches it up to cure constipation. The same surgeon that carefully clears off a Jackson's veil and mobilizes the

cecum will stitch the next colon to the anterior abdominal wall because it is too movable.

In spite of the many loose statements throughout the book, there is so much that is valuable that we can certainly recommend the volume for a place in the physician's working library.

W. C. A.

SOCIETY REPORTS

CALIFORNIA PEDIATRIC SOCIETY NORTHERN BRANCH.

The Fourth meeting of the California Pediatric Society—Northern Branch—will be held on Thursday evening, September 30, at 8:15, in the County Medical Library. The program will be as follows:

- I. Treatment of Paralysis following Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis—Demonstration of Cases.
Walter F. Schaller.
- II. Creolin in Scabies in the Infant.
Douglass W. Montgomery.
- III. Study of the Problem of Dental Hygiene in Children.
Guy S. Millberry.

It is hoped that anyone interested in child welfare problems will come to this meeting and join the Society. We will welcome all who are really interested in any phase of child welfare work.

WILLIAM PALMER LUCAS,
Secretary.

PLACER COUNTY.

The July meeting of the Placer County Medical Society was held on the evening of July 17, 1915, at the W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital, Grass Valley. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the President and Vice-President, Dr. J. T. Jones of Grass Valley presided.

There were present the following members and visitors: Drs. Tickell, Bush, Allen, Sawyer, J. T. Jones, C. P. Jones, Peers, George E. Ebright, F. F. Gundrum, S. L. Haas, Donald H. Currie, C. A. Durant, H. K. Berkley, O. C. Hyde.

Drs. O. C. Hyde, Lincoln, and A. N. Couture, Auburn, were elected members of the Society.

Cases of interest were reported by Drs. Tickell, Sawyer and Berkley.

The program of the evening consisted of an address by Dr. F. F. Gundrum, Sacramento, on "Cardio-Vascular Lesions of Syphilis," and an address by Dr. George E. Ebright, University of California Medical School, on "Diagnosis and Treatment of Certain Types of Myocarditis." Dr. Gundrum's paper was discussed by Drs. Tickell, Allen, Ebright, Sawyer, Haas, Gundrum. Dr. Ebright's paper was discussed by Drs. Tickell, Gundrum, Allen, Ebright.

After adjournment refreshments were served on the lawn adjoining the Jones residence.

The next meeting will be in Colfax during August.

ROBERT A. PEERS, Secretary.

PEDIATRIC SOCIETY; SOUTHERN BRANCH.

On the evening of July 23, at a meeting held at the Barlow Medical Library, Los Angeles, the Pediatric Society of Southern California was organized. The officers elected were as follows: President, W. A. Edwards, M. D.; Vice-President, P. V. K. Johnson, M. D.; Secretary and Treasurer, Victor Stork, M. D.; Councillors, Henry Dietrich, M. D., and R. B. Mixsell, M. D.

The Society has for its object the advancement of the study of infancy and childhood and to this end will include as associate members those interested in the various phases of child study.

It is planned to hold meetings from time to time,

when papers will be read by men of authority in the field of Pediatrics.

An effort is being made to show the Government Child Welfare Exhibit in Los Angeles under the auspices of the Society.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY.

Regular July meeting of the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement was called to order by Dr. T. J. Cox.

Report of cases:—Dr. McKinnon of Rio Vista reported that since Rio Vista has been using well water there has been no case of typhoid fever developed in the town.

Dr. Hanna reported a paper—"Treatment of Wounds Acquired in War."

First paper of the evening was read: "Surgical Treatment of the New Growths of the Face," by G. A. White, M.D.

Second paper: "Escharotic Treatment," by Fred'k. Grazer, M.D.

Third paper: "X-ray Treatment," by G. A. Foster, M.D. Discussed by Drs. Barnard, Jones, Cox and Gundrum.

Dr. Blake Franklin was elected to membership. Adjourned 10:30 p. m.

F. F. GUNDRUM, M.D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Fifty-Second Regular Semi-Annual Meeting.

Officers: F. W. Thomas, M.D., Claremont, President; W. T. McArthur, M.D., Los Angeles, First Vice-President; J. K. Swindt, M.D., Pomona, Second Vice-President; Walter Brem, M.D., Los Angeles, Secretary and Treasurer.

Committee on Arrangements: R. E. Austin, San Diego, Chairman.

Treatment Based on Etiology the Ideal Method. Dr. William D. Whitten, San Diego.

Some Etiologic Factors in Purpura Hemorrhagica. Dr. W. W. Duke, Kansas City, Mo.

Disturbances of Purin Metabolism as Related to Insomnia. Dr. Charles L. Bennett, Los Angeles.

Alcoholic Injections for Trifacial Neuralgia with Demonstration of the Harris Method. Dr. Ross Moore, Los Angeles.

2:00 p. m. Heliotherapy in Bone Tuberculosis. Dr. Maynard C. Harding, San Diego.

Relationship Between the Primary Infection in the Child and Clinical Tuberculosis in the Adult. Dr. Francis M. Pottenger, Los Angeles. Discussion to be opened by Dr. Joseph A. Parks, San Diego.

Observations on Bone Transplantations (illustrated with lantern slides), Dr. Ellis W. Jones, Los Angeles. Discussion to be opened by Dr. M. C. Harding, San Diego.

The X-Ray as an Aid in the Study of Intrathoracic Disease, Especially Tuberculosis. Dr. Ray W. Matson, Portland, Ore. Discussion to be opened by Dr. Albert Soiland, Los Angeles.

Thursday Evening—Entertainment by the Medical Profession of San Diego. Refreshments at the Christobal Cafe. Seeing the Exposition by night.

Friday, July 9, 1915, 10:00 a. m. Pathology and Treatment of the Toxemias of Pregnancy. Dr. Frank C. Ainley, Los Angeles.

Here and There in Medicine and Surgery. Dr. George E. Abbott, Pasadena.

The Slowly Elaborating Stomach. Dr. Robert Pollock, San Diego. Discussion to be opened by Dr. Donald J. Frick, Los Angeles.

Recent Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diphtheria. Dr. William P. Lucas, San Francisco.

Cancer of the Uterus Treated by the Low Heat

or Percy Method. Dr. Thomas O. Burger, San Diego.

Friday afternoon devoted to the Exposition or to sight-seeing. No scientific program.

8 p. m.—Address by Dr. William L. Rodman, President of the American Medical Association.

Pathology of Osteomyelitis—Animal Experimentation. Dr. Frank S. Dolley, San Francisco.

Clinical Notes on Perinephritic Abscess. Dr. W. F. Braasch, Rochester, Minn. Discussion to be opened by Dr. A. B. Cecil, Los Angeles.

Spinal Anesthesia in Anal and Rectal Surgery. Dr. W. H. Kiger, Los Angeles.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1915, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

Caustic Applicators, Special (Silver Nitrate, 50 per cent.).—Wooden sticks, 12 in. long, tipped with a mixture of silver nitrate 50 per cent. and potassium nitrate 50 per cent. Antiseptic Supply Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., July 3, 1915, p. 29).

Enzymol.—An extract of the fresh animal stomach containing the gastric enzyme in active standardized form and having an acidity due to combined hydrochloric acid. Enzymol is stated to be useful as an application to old sores, ulcers and slow healing wounds. It is said to correct offensive odors, to exert a solvent action on pus, sloughing and necrotic tissue and to impart a healing stimulus. For the solution of necrotic bone and in some abscesses hydrochloric acid is added to the diluted extract. Fairchild Bros. & Foster, New York (Jour. A. M. A., July 24, 1915, p. 333).

Items of Interest.

Liquid Petrolatum.—Liquid petrolatum is sold under proprietary names such as Bakural, Interol, Med-O-Lin, Muthol, Semprolin, Whiteruss, Nujol and Stanolax. Nujol is put up by the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, and Stanolax by the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana. Probably before long each of the other Standard Oil companies will have its own name for liquid petrolatum—that is, if physicians will tolerate. There is no excuse whatever for special brands of liquid petrolatum, so far as the medical profession and the public are concerned. But it is otherwise with those who supply the product. More can be charged for a product sold under a trade-marked name and claims can be made which could not be made when the product is sold under its proper title, liquid petrolatum (Jour. A. M. A., July 10, 1915, p. 175).

Horowitz-Beebe Cancer Treatment.—Newspapers are giving much attention to a new "serum"—Autolysin—for the treatment of inoperable cancer. This had its origin in the publication by S. P. Beebe, formerly Professor of Experimental Therapeutics at Cornell Medical School, of a system of treatment by "Alexander Horowitz, Ph. D., an Austrian biologist and chemist," and its trial at the General Memorial Hospital. The composition of the preparation is not disclosed as to quantities, but it is said to be made from: *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Melilotus officinalis*, *Mentha crispa*, *Brassica alba*, *Anemone hepatica*, *Viola tricolor*, *anthemidis*, *fructus colocynthidis*, *lignum quassiae*, *Urtica dioica*, *radix rhei* and hedge hyssop. One critic of the matter has remarked that apparently the only ingredient which has been overlooked in the preparation of the new remedy was a rabbit's foot (Jour. A. M. A., July 24, 1915, p. 336).

Echinacea.—This is one of the drugs which the